

Minutes of Meeting of WBNP Steering Group 37

Date: Monday 19th July 2021 9.30am-10.45am

Location: Rivendell House, outdoors

Present: Carol Cade, John Pritchard, Alex Swift, Sally Kaill and Martin Thomas

Agenda

- 1) **Apologies for absence:** None
- 2) **Minutes of the last meeting:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Group held on 14th May 2021 were **AGREED** as a correct record.
- 3) **Matters arising from minutes:** Nothing.
- 4) **Draft Policies Review:** It was **AGREED** that CC will send Pippa Home (HPBC) as soon as possible a schedule of the proposed Policies (excluding the 'Rationale' sections) together with the proposed 16 Local Green Spaces and their associated text and maps. This information is for the purpose of 'screening' for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). See the Locality Note at **APPENDIX 1**.
- 5) **Consultation:** The proposed Survey Monkey Questionnaire and process was discussed. The content of a letter to go to landowners just prior to public announcement of LGS consultation was discussed and **AGREED**. CC will contact Zoe Connolly at Bio Diversity Whaley about attending our LGS Public Consultation on the 5th August to participate in gathering feedback about the DWT wildlife corridors. It was **AGREED** to add free text boxes for each site in which respondents are asked to record why the space is special to them and to add any information they have regarding its special place in our local history. It was also **AGREED** to add another in which the reasons for opposing the sites designation could be recorded.
- 6) **Timeline and Project Management:** Nothing to report.
- 7) **Funding:** MT reported that the Town Council had received the sum of £3,210 from Locality. This was the final tranche of the grant from the Government.
- 8) **Town Council feedback:** Nothing to report.
- 9) **AOB:** None.

Date of next meeting: To be advised.

Forthcoming public engagement events:

1. At the Whaley Wharf Weekend in the Canal Basin from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday, 31st July 2021

2. At the Uniting Church (in Main Hall on top floor) from 3.30pm to 8pm on Thursday, 5th August 2021; ('set up' from 3pm to 3.30pm)
3. MT and JP will attend at Furness Vale Community Centre from 2pm to 4pm on Tuesday, 10th August 2021.

APPENDIX 1 Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

A Locality Note 'Screening of Neighbourhood Plans for Strategic Environmental Assessment' may be seen at [160602-TOOLKIT_SEA_FINAL_Oct-2016.pdf \(neighbourhoodplanning.org\)](#). This is a 33-page document, an extract from which is:

Do you need an SEA?

Not every neighbourhood plan needs SEA, however, it is compulsory to provide when submitting a plan proposal to the local planning authority, either:

- *a statement of reasons as to why SEA was not required*
- *an environmental report (a key output of the SEA process).*

As a general rule of thumb, SEA is more likely to be necessary if:

- *a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development (for housing, employment etc.) that haven't already been appraised through the sustainability appraisal (SA) of the relevant Local Plan)*
- *the neighbourhood plan area contains sensitive environmental assets that may be affected by the policies and proposals in the neighbourhood plan*
- *the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects not already addressed through the sustainability appraisal of the relevant Local Plan.*

A Note (two pages) on Habitats Regulations Assessment may be seen at [HRAguidance.pdf \(easthants.gov.uk\)](#).